

It's the Man and Not the Bludgeon That Drives Out Long Hits

Few of the Best Batsmen Use Same Model of Wagon Tongue

Cap Anson, in His Best Days, Groomed 50 Different Bats—Spoke of a Wheel When Wielded by Sam Thompson, Produced Home Runs—Stars of Today Use Lighter Sticks Than the Early Day Players

BY SAM CRANE.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—There are few of the best batsmen in the big leagues who use the same model of a bat, so it is without doubt the man behind the bludgeon instead of the bludgeon itself to whom the credit is due for the smashing of fences and the consequent justification of the assembled fans—or their deep despair—as the case may be.

A player can consider himself a star batter from the time his name is stamped by the manufacturer on the old "wagon tongue."

From the time Cap Anson was leading the league in batting year after year, the most successful batters have had their hobby as to the style of bat they should use and they would not be satisfied with any other kind. Why I have known Anson to have as many as 50 bats at his home in Chicago every winter and he nursed them as carefully as a dog fancier would a pet dog. Anse would scrape them, oil them and hang them up to dry out with the room where they were kept at the exact temperature that he thought was proper to get them in perfect shape for the coming season.

Made Good With Spoke.

A limb of a tree might have been good enough for a country boy to hit a home run when he played against his town rivals on the "common." But that same boy, after he had joined a real professional club, or the minute he became convinced that he was a real batter, looked carefully to the tools of his trade.

Sam Thompson, one of the longest drivers of a base ball who ever played the game, is said to have been engaged for the Indianapolis club in 1884 through Dan O'Leary, then manager of the Hoosier club, seeing him wallop a ball a mile or so by picking up and using an old wagon spoke, the only other bat having been broken.

Sam lived in a small town a few miles from Indianapolis and after his phenomenal clout, O'Leary arranged for Sam's club to visit Indianapolis and play an exhibition game. It was with four and trembling that the farmer boys arrived in town and they wore their uniforms all the way. They drove up to the rear of the ball park, back of the centerfield and hitched their horses. Then they

perched themselves in a row on the back fence waiting to be asked in.

Sam used same old spoke. O'Leary on those criss fence and had difficulty in getting the countrymen to join in the festivities, for the home team had put up a sizzling preliminary practice. But finally they were induced to come on to the field.

Sam Thompson carried the same old spoke with which he had made his home run at home.

Larry McKee was pitching for Indianapolis and Jimmie Foxx was catching. Sam was allowed to use his spoke, "just as a kid," as the boys said. But Sam had bats that looked like telegraph poles, with thick handles, the taper very near straight from top to nub, and yet their styles of hitting were entirely different. Anson just met the ball, timing it nicely, while

Conner Made Long Drive.

Dan Brubaker and Roger Connor, both left hand batters, used very heavy bats and swung viciously with a toe hold. Their long drives are historical. Roger hit a ball over the right field fence into One Hundred and Twelfth street at the old Polo grounds. One Hundred and Tenth street, Fifth and Sixth avenues, and was presented a \$500 gold watch by members of the Stock Exchange, it being the longest hit that had ever been made on those grounds.

Dan Brubaker is credited with the longest hit ever made. This was in Baltimore.

The best batters of today, with the exception of Chief Myers, use lighter bats. Ty Cobb uses a medium-weight bat with a medium sized handle, while Joe Jackson and "Helen" Zimmerman use clubs with the thinnest of pipe-stem handles and yet they sting the ball terrifically hard and far, as witnessed by Jackson's famous clout over the right-field grandstand at the Polo Grounds the past season.

No Overtraining For Nov. 23 Bout

Hanson and Herrick to Hold Back

PRELIMINARY details such as selection of training quarters and posing for photos was the card Monday for Jack Herrick and Vic Hanson, middleweights, who are slated to clash in a 20 round contest at the Juarez arena on November 23. Fred Winsor and Hanson were chaperoned through El Paso and Juarez on a night train Sunday afternoon.

It is hardly probable that either boxer will enter training until two weeks before the fight. Both are in excellent physical condition, as Hanson fought a 15 round draw with Jeff Clarke one week ago, while Herrick continually does light boxing to keep in shape. It isn't hard to get into the

required condition in this climate, according to several boxers, and neither principals want to take a chance on becoming stale before the bout.

A number of fight followers have asked me regarding the two fights between Herrick and Hanson heretofore, said Fred Winsor Monday. "Hanson defeated Herrick decisively in a 20 round bout at Taft, Cal. on September 19, 1912, having the decision after a fast 20 round battle. The second fight, which was refereed by Harry Foley, now manager of Willie Ritchie, was also won by Hanson. It was started at Taft also and the decision was handed down to the Californian after 20 rounds of fast fighting. Both boxers have

(Continued on next page, first column.)

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By "Hop"



Pelkey and Gunboat Smith May Sign to Fight on Coast

Proposed Battle at San Francisco Will Settle Dispute Over White Heavyweight Championship; Milburn Saylor Will Get Another Chance at Freddy Welsh on November 10

BY THOMAS S. ANDREWS.

IT looks as if there will be a real battle for the white heavyweight championship during December, the contestants being Arthur Pelkey, the Canadian, and Gunboat Smith, the Californian heavyweight. The scene of battle will in all probability be Jimmy Coffroth's arena in San Francisco.

The match is pending, but from information at hand it will be closed all right. Tommy Burns, who is managing Pelkey, is in Canada at present and is negotiating with Coffroth regarding the bout.

"Pelkey is the heavyweight champion at present," writes Burns, "and the chances are that he will meet Gunboat Smith, who is a fine fighter, in December. Pelkey was recognized as the white champion before his match at Calgary, but the fact that Pelkey won, making him champion without question. Coffroth has been very fair in his dealings with all and is almost certain the match will go through. It will be a real title match, for both boys are recognized as among the best of the heavyweights. You can bet I am sure, or at least feel that way, that Pelkey will trim Smith, as he is a big man weighing 265 pounds and is very fast on his feet. He is also as game as they make them. I will bet every dollar I have that Pelkey will win and he will also beat Jack Johnson if they ever come together. I would not make the bluff if I did not believe that he would make good against either man. I know he will give the fans a surprise when they see him in action. Some of the heavy ones on the coast tried to slip something over on me when I was out west, endeavoring to steal Pelkey away from me, but it did not work. I have had offers for Pelkey from abroad, but prefer to have him meet Smith in this country and we will see good why it is time to think of going over to England, France and Australia. We are not afraid of any of them. The boys are not we trying to avoid Johnson. He is one man we would be most pleased to tackle."

Joe Rivers, the California lightweight, has evidently not improved his Frank's Russell, the New Orleans 135 pounder, has come along at a good clip the past six months. These boys fought 10 rounds at New Orleans and while some of the papers gave Rivers the decision on points, others called it a draw. Joe claimed to have won in the second round, which if correct, would handicap him considerably. However, it brings him into more prominence and will add to the already large list of lightweights who are after the crown worn by Willie Ritchie.

The recent controversy between Freddy Welsh, the British lightweight champion, and Milburn Saylor, of Indianapolis, as to whether Welsh was really fouled by Saylor, will be settled in all probability in the ropes arena, as they will be matched again at Winnipeg for a 12 round contest, November 10, unless present dealings should fall through. Ray Bronson, manager of Saylor, has been persistent in his claim that Welsh was not fouled, but stopped by the Indian oils boy, and he showed his confidence in his boxer by accepting a proposition from the same club for a return match. It will mean much to Saylor, for a victory over the British champion would place him in line for some big matches.

This Duffy boy of Buffalo, N. Y., is sure enough coming along at a fast clip and if he can keep the pace it will not be long before he is butting into match with champion Willie Ritchie. Jimmy Duffy has played no favorites. He has tackled anything in the lightweight division that has been suggested to him and in most cases he has been returned the victor, that is, by newspaper decisions, and now he is hot after match with the champion of the title. His defeat of Eddie Murphy at St. Louis demonstrated that he has class and there are few of the 125 pounders running after him for matches. He tackles a hard one in Young Shugrue at Buffalo, but the man he seeks most of all in the California champion and falling there he would like to talk turkey with Freddie Welsh, just to have a crack at one of the titles in the lightweight division.

Illinois produced Billy Papke, the middleweight thunderbolt, and now a minor thunderbolt comes from that state in the person of Herman of Pekin. Herman is a bona-fide heavyweight and carries only 116 pounds of bone and muscle, while Papke twaddled around with 158, but the Herman boy thinks he is just as much a champion as Billy ever was. He has his claim to recognition on the fact that he beat Joe Lavigne (known as Louisiana), the crack Philadelphia featherweight, or 118 pounder, and who is considered a star in the ring. Herman wants to meet "Kid" Williams, who claims Johnny Coulton's crown, and will gamble his end of the purse that he beats the Baltimore whirlwind.

One of the big ring surprises was the defeat, at least the newspaper decision, against Matty McCue, the Racine, Wis., featherweight (who was supposed to be in line for Johnny Kilbane's head gear) by the sparring partner of the champion, Cal Delaney of Cleveland, O. Probably Jimmy Dunn, manager of Kilbane, sent Cal along just to try out the Wisconsin

Ritchie and Cross Meet on Nov. 10 Fowser and Ross to Fight at Raton

WILLIAM GIBSON, promoter of the Garden A. C., New York, has decided upon November 10 as the definite date for the Cross-Ritchie contest. Both fighters have posted a forfeit of \$1,000, and the club \$2,000 as a guarantee that the fight will be held. The postponed contest proved costly to Cross, as Harry Foley, manager of Ritchie, demanded \$250 of the \$1,000 which the New Yorker deposited as appearance money to defray Ritchie's training expenses over the extended period. Cross will also lose a fight with Charlie White, at Racine, booked for November 10.

Frankie Fowser, the El Paso welterweight, and Jack Ross, a fireman, have been signed for a 10-round contest to be held at Raton, N. M., on November 4, according to Denver reports. Fowser, it is said, made a good impression on the Denver fight fans in a 10-round bout with Clarence Wells, of Cincinnati, whom Fowser defeated.

"Battling" Nelson has determined to quit the boxing game for good, Nelson has given up his aspirations to again be lightweight champion. When asked if he had retired, Nelson reiterated his statement that he had quit the game because of the poor condition of his hands.

The National Baseball commission favors the demands of the Baseball Players' fraternity, according to August Herrmann, chairman of the commission. Herrmann took a rap at David Fultz, head of the players' association, when he stated that the commission would receive any acting player as delegate of the fraternity as spokesman, but it could not see where an outsider has any business in the affair. Fultz is not an active player.

Many featherweights are discouraged by the raise of the lightweight limit from 125 to 125 pounds. Raising the weight, it is considered, will be convenient for many heavy, lightweights, who cannot make 125. None of the contenders for the title will be handicapped by the raise, while most of them will be benefited by it.

Freddie Welsh has declined to meet Paquillo McFarland at catchweights, in a 10-round bout at St. Louis. Welsh, who is a natural 135 pounder, can do the limit if necessary, while it is known that McFarland would have to amputate a limb to get down to that specification, and he wants the fight at catchweights. Welsh is agreeable to the match if the Chicagoan will come to 125 rindside.

"Battling" Chico, of Los Angeles contender for the bantam title, says

NAPS MAY TRAIN AT ROSWELL, N. M.

Vice President of Cleveland Team May Transfer Training Quarters From Macon, Ga.

Roswell, N. M., Nov. 2.—The Cleveland American league team may make Roswell its permanent training quarters.

This all comes about by efforts of members of the Berrendo Irrigated Farms company at Cleveland, O., who have taken up the matter with E. S. Barnard, the vice president of the Cleveland club.

Mr. Barnard will leave in a few days for Macon, Ga., the quarters selected for this season, but if inducements are not right, and climatic conditions can be bettered in the valley, he will not hesitate to make the change to this section.

YALE SENDS OUT HURRY CALL TO FORMER PLAYERS

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 2.—Yale football coaches have held a "council of war" and decided to send out a hurry call for all former players to assist in rounding the team into shape for the Princeton and Harvard games

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